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BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

LeRoy Koppendraye
Marshall Johnson
Ken Nickolai
Phyllis A. Reha
Gregory Scott

Chair
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner
Commissioner

In the Matter of the Application for a
Certificate of Need for the Trimont Area Wind
Farm

ISSUE DATE: December 22, 2003

DOCKET NO. IP-6339/CN-03-1841

ORDER GRANTING EXEMPTION
REQUESTS IN PART, PERMITTING
EXPEDITED FILING, ACCEPTING
APPLICATION AS OF DATE OF
SUPPLEMENTAL FILING, AND
REQUESTING PREPARATION OF
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On November 18, 2003, Trimont Area Wind Farm, LLC (Trimont or the Company) filed an application for a certificate of need to construct a 100-megawatt wind generation facility in Martin and Jackson Counties. The application included a request for variances from specific data requirements in eight certificate of need rules, on grounds that these requirements did not apply to the proposed facility either because it was a wind facility or because it was not being built by a public utility.

On November 19, 2003, the Commission issued a notice requesting comments on the request for variances and the completeness of the application.

On December 1, 2003, the Company filed a request that the Staff of the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) prepare the environmental report required under the certificate of need rules. On the same date, the Staff of the Environmental Quality Board filed comments suggesting that they prepare that report, in light of pending EQB rules assigning that responsibility to EQB Staff.

On December 1, 2003, the Department of Commerce (the Department) filed comments on the completeness of the application and the request for variances. The Department recommended treating Trimont's requests for variances as requests for exemptions from filing requirements under Minn. Rules 7849.0200. The Department recommended granting most of the requested exemptions and denying others. The Department recommended finding the certificate of need application substantially complete as of the date that Trimont submitted a supplemental filing containing specified information. Finally, the Department recommended varying Minn. Rules 7849.0200, subp. 6, which requires a 45-day interval between filing exemption requests and

filing a certificate of need application, to permit Trimont's application to go forward without delay.

On December 11, 2003, Trimont's filing came before the Commission.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

I. The Proposed Project

Trimont Area Wind Farm is a limited liability company made up of some 40 landowners who between them own approximately 18 square miles of wind-rich land in southwestern Minnesota. The Company submitted the winning bid in a competitive bidding process for renewable generation conducted by Great River Energy (GRE), which was seeking to comply with the legislative mandate requiring good faith efforts to secure 10% of its energy supply from renewable resources by 2015.¹ Great River agreed to purchase the entire output of the proposed 100-megawatt facility.

Trimont proposes to place up to 67 1.5-megawatt turbines on the 18-square-mile parcel, which stretches between Martin and Jackson Counties in southwestern Minnesota. Transmission capacity will be supplied by existing transmission facilities at GRE's neighboring Lakefield Junction Generating Station.

II. The Exemption Requests

A. The Legal Standard

Determining need for large electric generating facilities or large high-voltage transmission lines is a complex, fact-intensive process, and the filing requirements for certificate of need applications are therefore comprehensive and detailed. Because the certificate of need rules apply to a broad range of projects, the rules explicitly permit applicants to request exemptions from filing requirements that are inappropriate in individual cases. Minn. Rules 7849.0200, subp. 6.

The Commission is to grant exemptions when the data requirements at issue (1) are unnecessary to determine need in a specific case; or (2) can be satisfied by submitting documents other than those required in the rules.²

B. Commission Action

Trimont sought variances, which the Commission will treat as exemption requests, from all or

¹ Minn. Stat. § 216B.1691.

² Minn. Rules 7849.0200, subp. 6.

part of eight filing rules. Each request will be treated in turn.

1. 7849.0250 (B) – Discussion of alternatives to the proposed facility.

The Commission concurs with the Department that Trimont should be exempted from discussing non-renewable alternatives to the proposed facility, since non-renewable alternatives could not fulfill the proposed facility's purpose of increasing the supply of renewable generation as directed by statute. They are therefore not true alternatives to the proposed facility, and information about them is unnecessary to determine need.

Other renewable options should be discussed, however, since they could fulfill that purpose and are therefore true alternatives to the proposed facility.

2. 7849.0250 (C) – Information on the costs of the proposed facility and alternatives.

The Commission concurs with the Department that Trimont should be exempted from providing cost data on non-renewable alternatives because, as discussed above, nonrenewable facilities are not true alternatives to the proposed facility. Information about nonrenewable alternatives is therefore unnecessary to determine need. The Company should, however, provide cost data on renewable alternatives, and the Commission will so require.

The Commission also concurs that Trimont should be exempted from requirements to provide system-wide data, since it does not have a system.

3. 7849.0270 – Information on the peak demand and annual consumption forecast of the relevant system.

The Commission concurs with the Department that the relevant system in this case is Great River's system and that Trimont has met this requirement by including Great River's resource plan in its filing. The exemption is therefore granted on grounds that the data requirement has been satisfied by submitting a document other than the one required in the rule.

4. 7849.0280 – Information on the applicant's system capacity.

The Commission concurs with the Department that here, too, the relevant system is Great River's, that the required information is in Great River's resource plan, and that Trimont has met this requirement by including Great River's resource plan in its filing. The exemption will therefore be granted on grounds that the data requirement has been satisfied by submitting a document other than the one required in the rule.

5. 7849.0290 – Information on conservation programs and their potential for reducing the need for new generation and transmission facilities.

The Commission concurs with the Department that here, too, it is Great River's conservation programs that are relevant, that the required information is in Great River's resource plan, and that Trimont has met this requirement by including Great River's resource plan in its filing. The exemption will therefore be granted on grounds that the data requirement has been satisfied by submitting a document other than the one required in the rule.

6. 7849.0300 – Information on the consequences of delaying construction of the proposed facility.

The Commission concurs with the Department that Trimont should be granted an exemption from analyzing the consequences of delay on its system – since it has no system – on grounds that the information is not necessary to determine need. The Company should, however, discuss the consequences of delay on Great River's system and the power pool in general.

7. 7849.0320 – Information on large electric generating facilities that could function as alternatives to the proposed facility.

The Commission concurs with the Department that only information on renewable alternatives need be supplied here. Parts C and D, by their terms, relate only to fossil-fuel facilities and are therefore inapplicable. The remaining parts should be addressed to the extent that they apply to renewable alternatives to the proposed facility.

8. 7849.0330 – Information on high-voltage transmission lines that could function as alternatives to the proposed facility.

The Commission concurs with the Department that transmission facilities are not true alternatives to the proposed facility, since the purpose of the facility is to increase the supply of renewable energy. The Commission will therefore grant the exemption, except to the extent that new high-voltage transmission facilities are an integral part of renewable alternatives to the proposed facility.

III. Substantial Completeness of the Application

The Commission is required by statute to act on certificate of need applications within six months of filing,³ making it impractical to rely on evidentiary proceedings to remedy significant defects or ambiguities in an application. The Commission's rules on the contents of certificate of need applications are therefore detailed and strictly enforced. Under these rules, applications are not accepted until they are substantially complete.⁴

The Commission concurs with the Department of Commerce that Trimont's initial application was not substantially complete due to the absence of the following information:

³ Minn. Stat. § 216B.243, subd. 5.

⁴ Minn. Rules 7849.0200, subp. 5.

- a discussion of the effect of economies of scale on the size and timing of the facility, as required under Minn. Rules 7849.0250 A (1);
- adequate information on capital costs per kilowatt hour, as required under Minn. Rules 7849.0250 C (1);
- total costs per kilowatt hour, as required under Minn. Rules 7849.0250 C (6);
- rate impacts on a state-wide basis, as required under Minn. Rules 7849.0250 C (7);
- the major assumptions underlying technical and operational data provided in the application, as required under Minn. Rules 7849.0250 C (9); and
- the effects on Great River Energy of not building the wind farm, as required under Minn. Rules 7849.0340 B (1) to (11).

The Commission also agrees with the Department that the most efficient way to handle the completeness issue is to find the application substantially complete as of the date that the Company submits a supplemental filing containing the missing information. This course of action should eliminate the need for further Commission action on the completeness issue, expediting consideration of the merits of this application.

Similarly, the Commission will by separate Order proceed with referring the case to the Office of Administrative Hearings for contested case proceedings, confident that the Company will continue to cooperate promptly and fully with the regulatory process.

IV. 45-Day Interval Between Exemption Request and Application

The Company filed its exemption requests on the same date that it filed its certificate of need application. The rules require a 45-day interval between filing exemption requests and filing a certificate of need application.⁵ The Department recommended varying the rule to prevent unnecessary delay, in light of clear legislative directives to increase utilities' reliance on renewable sources of energy.

Under Minn. Rules 7829.3200, the Commission can vary any of its rules upon making the following findings:

5. Enforcing the rule would impose an excessive burden upon the applicant or others affected by the rule;
6. Granting the variance would not adversely affect the public interest; and
7. Granting the variance would not conflict with any standards imposed by law.

The Commission will vary the rule requiring the 45-day interval, based on the following findings.

1. Enforcing the 45-day interval would impose an excessive burden on the applicant by jeopardizing the targeted in-service date of the proposed facility.

⁵ Minn. Rules 7849.0200, subp. 6.

2. Granting the variance would not adversely affect the public interest, but would serve the public interest by expediting consideration of a project that falls within a class of projects the Legislature has directed regulators and utilities to promote.
3. Granting the variance would not conflict with any standards imposed by law.

The Commission will therefore vary the requirement for a 45-day interval between the filing of exemption requests and the certificate of need application to which they relate.

V. The Environmental Report

The rules of the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) require an environmental report in certificate of need cases.⁶ The current EQB rules require the Commission to prepare the report,⁷ but those rules will be replaced in a matter of weeks with recently-adopted rules assigning that responsibility to the EQB.⁸ All parties recommend that the Commission ask the EQB Staff to prepare the environmental report in this case, consistent with the new rules.

The Commission concurs with the parties that asking the EQB Staff to prepare the environmental report would best serve the interests of the public, the parties, and this proceeding. Asking the EQB Staff to prepare the report will not only avoid the ambiguity that could result from new rules going into effect in the course of this case, but will also ensure that environmental issues receive the informed development anticipated by both agencies' rules.

ORDER

1. The Commission grants Trimont Area Wind Farm, LLC exemptions from specific data requirements in the certificate of need rules as set forth above.
2. The Commission varies Minn. Rules 7849.0200, subp. 6 to permit the contemporaneous filing of Trimont's certificate of need application and its request for exemptions from specific data requirements of the certificate of need rules.
3. The Commission accepts Trimont's certificate of need application as substantially complete as of the date that it makes a supplemental filing containing the items listed below:
 - a discussion of the effect of economies of scale on the size and timing of the facility, as required under Minn. Rules 7849.0250 A (1);
 - adequate information on capital costs per kilowatt hour, as required under Minn. Rules 7849.0250 C (1);

⁶ Minn. Rules 4410.7000 *et seq.*

⁷ Minn. Rules 4410.7100.

⁸ Proposed rules 4410.7010 to 7070, adopted by the Environmental Quality Board on November 20, 2003.

- total costs per kilowatt hour, as required under Minn. Rules 7849.0250 C (6);
 - rate impacts on a state-wide basis, as required under Minn. Rules 7849.0250 C (7);
 - the major assumptions underlying technical and operational data provided in the application, as required under Minn. Rules 7849.0250 C (9); and
 - the effects on Great River Energy of not building the wind farm, as required under Minn. Rules 7849.0340 B (1) to (11).
4. The Commission asks the Staff of the Environmental Quality Board to prepare the environmental report on this application in accordance with the rules recently adopted by the Environmental Quality Board.
 5. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

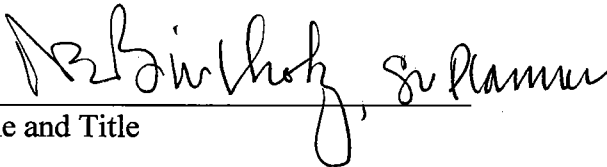
This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling (651) 297-4596 (voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING THE TRIMONT AREA WIND FARM, LLC NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF NEED AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO THE GENERAL POWERPLANT MAILING LIST, THE PUBLIC UTILITIES MAILING LIST, LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THE LIST OF LANDOWNERS AS PROVIDED BY THE COMPANY AND THE LOCAL MEDIA

Under Proposed Rules Governing Environmental Review at the Certificate of Need Stage, Minnesota Rules, part 4410.7030

I certify that on December 24, 2003, at least 15 days before the Public Meeting at Trimont Community Hall, Trimont Minnesota, I mailed the Notice of Application and Notice of Public Meeting by depositing a copy thereof in the State of Minnesota's central mail system for United States mail, with postage prepaid, to all persons and associations on the Trimont interest list, and all mailing lists mentioned above. [A copy of the Notice is attached to this Certificate.]


Name and Title

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board



PUBLIC NOTICE

**Trimont Area Wind Farm, LLC
Large Wind Energy Conversion System
Martin and Jackson Counties
Certificate of Need Application**

Public Meeting

**January 13, 2004
Trimont, Minnesota**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Trimont Area Wind Farm, LLC (Trimont), has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a certificate of need for a large wind energy conversion system of approximately 100 megawatts. The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board will prepare an Environmental Report on the project. A public meeting will be held at the Trimont Community Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2004.

a.) Project Description

The Trimont Area Wind Farm Project is a Large Wind Energy Conversion System of approximately 100 MW comprising up to 67 turbines with a nameplate capacity of 1.5 MW and associated facilities like access roads and power lines. The project will be located in Jackson and Martin Counties, six miles west of the city of Trimont, on approximately 22,400 acres in Kimball and Cedar townships. The project is to be sited in the area surrounding Great River Energy's Lakefield Junction Generating Station, a 550 MW natural gas peaking plant. The project will be connected to the electrical grid at Xcel Energy's Martin County Substation, located at the Lakefield Junction Generating Station.

The turbine manufacturer is General Electric Company. The wind turbines will be 80 meters high at the hub and the blades will have a rotor diameter of either 70.5 or 77 meters. At the base of each turbine will be a "step-up" transformer. A network of access roads and underground power and communication cables will also be installed.

b.) Certificate of Need Application

The Trimont wind project is a "large energy facility" as defined in Minnesota Statutes § 216B.2421, subp. 2, and a certificate of need from the Public Utilities Commission is required for such a project under Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243. Trimont filed a certificate of need application with the PUC on November 18, 2003. PUC Docket No. IP-6339/CN-03-1841. The PUC accepted the application as complete on December 11, 2003.

The PUC has authorized the holding of a contested case hearing on the application. An administrative law judge will be assigned to preside at the hearing. The actual hearing will be held shortly after the EQB completes preparation of the Environmental Report. The PUC has six months from December 11 to complete the process and make a decision on the certificate of need application. Under state law, the PUC proceeding is the only time at which the "no-build" alternative and the size, type, and timing of a new generating facility will be considered. These items will not be readdressed in the EQB Site Permit process.

c.) EQB Environmental Report

Under Minnesota Rules parts 4410.7010 to 4410.7070, the EQB is responsible for preparing an Environmental Report on any proposed large energy facility for which a certificate of need from the Public Utilities Commission is required under Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243. The Environmental Report is a written document that describes the human and environmental impacts of the proposed facility, alternatives to the project, and methods to mitigate anticipated adverse impacts. The Environmental Report must be prepared before the PUC can make a decision on the certificate of need application.

The Environmental Quality Board will provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the determination of the scope of the Environmental Report. Once the scope is determined, the EQB will prepare the Environmental Report by no later than April 11, 2004. The Environmental Report will be introduced into the record at the hearing and the EQB staff will be available to answer questions about information in the Report.

d.) Public Meeting

The EQB will hold a public information meeting on the project at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13, 2004, in the Trimont Community Room, 41 2nd Avenue NW, Trimont, Minnesota. The purpose of the public meeting is to inform the public of the Trimont project and to gather public input into the scope of the Environment Report. The meeting provides the public with an opportunity to ask questions about the project and to suggest alternatives and impacts to address in the Environmental Report.

e.) Available Information

All pertinent information regarding this matter, including the certificate of need application and the Environmental Report when it is completed, can be accessed at <http://www.eqb.mn.us> or by contacting David Birkholz at 651.296.2878 or at EQB, 658 Cedar Street, 300 Centennial Building, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155.

f.) Eminent Domain

Trimont Area Wind Farm, LLC, does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land necessary for this project.

g.) Mailing List

Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained by the EQB for future mailings regarding the Trimont project. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Birkholz or electronically by visiting the EQB website:

<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/EnergyFacilities/wind.html>

h.) EQB Wind Site Permit

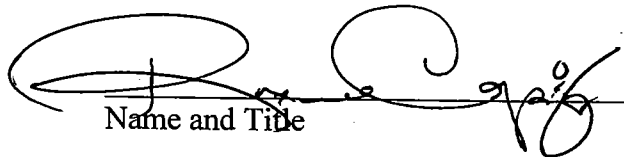
Trimont will also be applying to the Environmental Quality Board for a Wind Site Permit for the project. The EQB will administer the permit application under the wind rules, Minnesota Rules chapter 4401, at the same time it is preparing the Environmental Report for the PUC process. A draft site permit will be available a few weeks following the actual application. The EQB will use the same mailing list created for the certificate of need application to notify interested persons of matters regarding the permit.

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING THE TRIMONT AREA WIND FARM, LLC NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF NEED AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO THE GENERAL POWERPLANT MAILING LIST, THE PUBLIC UTILITIES MAILING LIST, LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THE LIST OF LANDOWNERS AS PROVIDED BY THE COMPANY AND THE LOCAL MEDIA

Under Proposed Rules Governing Environmental Review at the Certificate of Need Stage, Minnesota Rules, part 4410.7030

I certify that on January 16, 2004, at least 15 days before the Public Meeting at Trimont Community Hall, Trimont Minnesota, I mailed the Notice of Application and Notice of Public Meeting by depositing a copy thereof in the State of Minnesota's central mail system for United States mail, with postage prepaid, to all persons and associations on the Trimont interest list, and all mailing lists mentioned above. [A copy of the Notice is attached to this Certificate.]


Name and Title

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board



PUBLIC NOTICE

**Trimont Area Wind Farm, LLC
Large Wind Energy Conversion System
Martin and Jackson Counties
Certificate of Need Application**

Public Meeting

**February 3, 2004
Trimont, Minnesota**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Trimont Area Wind Farm, LLC (Trimont), has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a certificate of need for a large wind energy conversion system of approximately 100 megawatts. The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board will prepare an Environmental Report on the project. A public meeting will be held at the Trimont Community Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2004.

a.) Project Description

The Trimont Area Wind Farm Project is a Large Wind Energy Conversion System of approximately 100 MW comprising up to 67 turbines with a nameplate capacity of 1.5 MW and associated facilities like access roads and power lines. The project will be located in Jackson and Martin Counties, six miles west of the city of Trimont, on approximately 22,400 acres in Kimball and Cedar townships. The project is to be sited in the area surrounding Great River Energy's Lakefield Junction Generating Station, a 550 MW natural gas peaking plant. The project will be connected to the electrical grid at Xcel Energy's Martin County Substation, located at the Lakefield Junction Generating Station.

The turbine manufacturer is General Electric Company. The wind turbines will be 80 meters high at the hub and the blades will have a rotor diameter of either 70.5 or 77 meters. At the base of each turbine will be a "step-up" transformer. A network of access roads and underground power and communication cables will also be installed.

b.) Certificate of Need Application

The Trimont wind project is a "large energy facility" as defined in Minnesota Statutes § 216B.2421, subp. 2, and a certificate of need from the Public Utilities Commission is required for such a project under Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243. Trimont filed a certificate of need application with the PUC on November 18, 2003. PUC Docket No. IP-6339/CN-03-1841. The PUC accepted the application as complete with the supplemental information that was filed Monday, January 12, 2004.

The PUC has authorized the holding of a contested case hearing on the application. An administrative law judge will be assigned to preside at the hearing. The actual hearing will be held shortly after the EQB completes preparation of the Environmental Report. The PUC has six months from January 12 to complete the process and make a decision on the certificate of need application. Under state law, the PUC proceeding is the only time at which the "no-build" alternative and the size, type, and timing of a new generating facility will be considered. These items will not be readdressed in the EQB Site Permit process.

c.) EQB Environmental Report

Under Minnesota Rules parts 4410.7010 to 4410.7070, the EQB is responsible for preparing an Environmental Report on any proposed large energy facility for which a certificate of need from the Public Utilities Commission is required under Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243. The Environmental Report is a written document that describes the human and environmental impacts of the proposed facility, alternatives to the project, and methods to mitigate anticipated adverse impacts. The Environmental Report must be prepared before the PUC can make a decision on the certificate of need application.

The Environmental Quality Board will provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the determination of the scope of the Environmental Report. Public comment can be made to the address below until February 24, 2004. Once the scope is determined, the EQB will prepare the Environmental Report by no later than May 12, 2004. The Environmental Report will be introduced into the record at the hearing and the EQB staff will be available to answer questions about information in the Report.

d.) Public Meeting

The EQB will hold a public information meeting on the project at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2004, in the Trimont Community Room, 41 2nd Avenue NW, Trimont, Minnesota. The purpose of the public meeting is to inform the public of the Trimont project and to gather public input into the scope of the Environment Report. The meeting provides the public with an opportunity to ask questions about the project and to suggest alternatives and impacts to address in the Environmental Report.

e.) Available Information

All pertinent information regarding this matter, including the certificate of need application and the Environmental Report when it is completed, can be accessed at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us> or by contacting David Birkholz at 651.296.2878 or at EQB, 658 Cedar Street, 300 Centennial Building, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155.

f.) Eminent Domain

Trimont Area Wind Farm, LLC, does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land necessary for this project.

g.) Mailing List

Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained by the EQB for future mailings regarding the Trimont project. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Birkholz or electronically by visiting the EQB website:

<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=5208>

h.) EQB Wind Site Permit

Trimont will also be applying to the Environmental Quality Board for a Wind Site Permit for the project. The EQB will administer the permit application under the wind rules, Minnesota Rules chapter 4401, at the same time it is preparing the Environmental Report for the PUC process. A draft site permit will be available a few weeks following the actual application. The EQB will use the same mailing list created for the certificate of need application to notify interested persons of matters regarding the permit.

State of Minnesota

County of Martin

} ss

XVII - 30
PUBLIC NOTICE
Affidavit of PublicationSept. 4, 1984
(replaces XVII - 28)

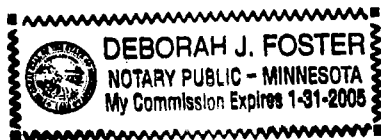
Gary Andersen

_____, being duly sworn,
on oath says that he/she is the general manager or authorized agent and employee of the general
manager of the newspaper known as _____ the Sentinel _____, and has full
knowledge of the facts which are stated below:

(A) The newspaper has complied with all the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified
newspaper, as provided by Minnesota Statute 331A.02, 331A.07, and other applicable laws, as
amended.

(B) The printed _____ Public Meeting February 3, 2004 - Trimont Area Wind Farm, LLC
_____ Large Wind Energy Conversion System Martin & Jackson Counties Certificate of Need _____

which is attached, was cut from the columns of said newspaper, and was printed and published
once each week, for _____ 1 _____ successive weeks;
it was first published on _____ Friday _____, the _____ 23 _____
day of _____ January _____, 2004, and was thereafter printed and published on
every _____ to and including _____,
the _____ day of _____, 2004; and printed below is a copy of the
lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, which is hereby acknowledged as being the size
and kind of type used in the composition and publication of the notice:



*abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

BY: _____

TITLE: _____

General Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me on
this _____ 23 _____ day of _____ January _____ 2004.

Notary Public

*Alphabet should be the same size and kind of type as notice.

Printers Affidavit of Publication
(Chapter 134, Laws of 1955)
State of Minnesota
County of Martin, ss.

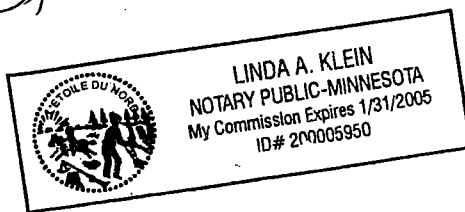
Sheila Yurcek being duly sworn, on oath says; that she is and during all the times herein stated has been Office Manager of the newspaper known as the Martin County Star has full knowledge of the facts hereinafter stated; that for more than one year prior to the publication therein of the _____ hereto attached, said newspaper was printed and published in the City of Sherburn in the County of Martin, State of Minnesota on Wednesday of each week; that during all said time said newspaper has been printed in the English language from its known office of publication within the city from which it purports to be issued as above stated and in newspaper format and in column and sheet form equivalent in space to at least 450 running inches of single column, two inches wide; has been issued once each week from a known office established in said place of publication and employing skilled workmen and the necessary material for preparing and printing the same; that the press work of that part of the newspaper devoted to local news of interest to the community it purports to serve it has been done in its known office of publication; that during all said time in its makeup not less than twenty-five percent of its news columns have been devoted to local news of interest to the community it purports to serve and during all said time it has not wholly duplicated any other publication, and has not been entirely made of patents, plate matter and advertisements; has been circulated in and near its said place publication to the extent of at least two hundred and forty (240) copies regularly delivered to paying subscribers and has entry as second class matter in its local post office; that a copy of each issue has been filed with the State Historical Society, St. Paul, Minnesota, the affidavit of a person having full knowledge of the facts showing the name and location of said newspaper and the existence of the conditions constituting its qualifications as a legal newspaper.

That the Trmt. Wind Farm hereto attached was cut from the columns of said newspaper, and was printed and published in the English language, once each week for 1 weeks; that is was first so published on Wednesday, the 21 day of Jan., 2004 and thereafter on Wednesday of each week to and including the _____ day of _____, 2004, and that the following is a printed copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z both inclusive, and is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of said notice, to-wit:
(abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz)

Sheila Yurcek

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31 day January, 2004.

Linda A. Klein

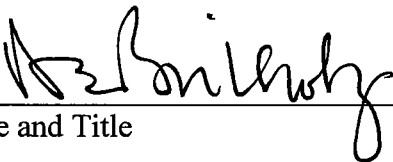


Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING THE TRIMONT AREA WIND FARM, LLC NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF NEED AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING IN THE EQB MONITOR

Under Minnesota Rules, part 4410.7030, Governing Environmental Review at the Certificate of Need Stage

I certify that on January 19, 2004, at least 15 days before the Public Meeting at Trimont Community Hall, Trimont Minnesota, I posted the Notice of Application and Notice of Public Meeting in the EQB Monitor. [A copy of the Notice is attached to this Certificate.]



Name and Title

Council Chambers at City Hall, 221 E. Clark Street, Albert Lea, MN.

Comments will be accepted through March 1, 2004 and will be considered for inclusion in the Final EIS/EA. Comments may be directed to Laura Morland, P.E., Mead & Hunt, Inc. 6501 Watts Road, Madison, WI. 53719; Email: Laura.Morland@meadhunt.com.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Trimont Area Wind Farm, LLC, Large Wind Energy Conversion System Martin and Jackson Counties

Certificate of Need Application

Public Meeting

February 3, 2004

Trimont, Minnesota

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Trimont Area Wind Farm, LLC (Trimont), has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a certificate of need for a large wind energy conversion system of approximately 100 megawatts. The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board will prepare an Environmental Report on the project. A public meeting will be held at the Trimont Community Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2004.

a.) Project Description: The Trimont Area Wind Farm Project is a Large Wind Energy Conversion System of approximately 100 MW comprising up to 67 turbines with a nameplate capacity of

1.5 MW and associated facilities like access roads and power lines. The project will be located in Jackson and Martin Counties, six miles west of the city of Trimont, on approximately 22,400 acres in Kimball and Cedar townships. The project is to be sited in the area surrounding Great River Energy's Lakefield Junction Generating Station, a 550 MW natural gas peaking plant. The project will be connected to the electrical grid at Xcel Energy's Martin County Substation, located at the Lakefield Junction Generating Station.

The turbine manufacturer is General Electric Company. The wind turbines will be 80 meters high at the hub and the blades will have a rotor diameter of either 70.5 or 77 meters. At the base of each turbine will be a "step-up" transformer. A network of access roads and underground power and communication cables will also be installed.

b.) Certificate of Need Application The Trimont wind project is a "large energy facility" as defined in Minnesota Statutes

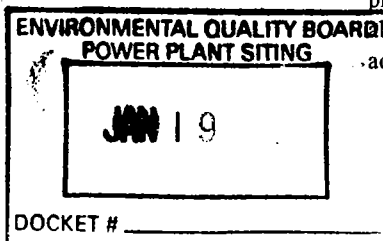
§ 216B.2421, subp. 2, and a certificate of need from the Public Utilities Commission is required for such a project under Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243. Trimont filed a certificate of need application with the PUC on November 18, 2003. PUC Docket No. IP-6339/CN-03-1841. The PUC accepted the application as complete with the supplemental information that was filed Monday, January 12, 2004.

The PUC has authorized the holding of a contested case hearing on the application. An administrative law judge will be assigned to preside at the hearing. The actual hearing will be held shortly after the EQB completes preparation of the Environmental Report. The PUC has six months from January 12 to complete the process and make a decision on the certificate of need application. Under state law, the PUC proceeding is the only time at which the "no-build" alternative and the size, type, and timing of a new generating facility will be considered. These items will not be readdressed in the EQB Site Permit process.

c.) EQB Environmental Report Under Minnesota Rules parts 4410.7010 to 4410.7070, the EQB is responsible for preparing an Environmental Report on any proposed large energy facility for which a certificate of need from the Public Utilities Commission is required under Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243. The Environmental Report is a written document that describes the human and environmental impacts of the proposed facility, alternatives to the project, and methods to mitigate anticipated adverse impacts. The Environmental Report must be prepared before the PUC can make a decision on the certificate of need application.

The Environmental Quality Board will provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the determination of the scope of the Environmental Report. Public comment can be made to the address below until February 24, 2004. Once the scope is determined, the EQB will prepare the Environmental Report by no later than May 12, 2004. The Environmental Report will be introduced into the record at the hearing and the EQB staff will be available to answer questions about information in the Report.

d.) Public Meeting The EQB will hold a public information meeting on the project at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 3, 2004, in the Trimont Community Room, 41 2nd Avenue NW, Trimont, Minnesota. The purpose of the public meeting is to inform the public of the Trimont project and to gather public input into the scope of the Environment Report. The meeting provides the public with an opportunity to ask questions about the project and to suggest alternatives and impacts to address in the Environmental Report.



e.) **Available Information** All pertinent information regarding this matter, including the certificate of need application and the Environmental Report when it is completed, can be accessed at <http://www.eqb.mn.us> or by contacting David Birkholz at 651.296.2878 or at EQB, 658 Cedar Street, 300 Centennial Building, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155.

f.) **Eminent Domain** Trimont Area Wind Farm, LLC, does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land necessary for this project.

g.) **Mailing List** Any person may add his or her name to a mailing list maintained by the EQB for future mailings regarding the Trimont project. Names can be added to the list by contacting Mr. Birkholz or electronically by visiting the EQB website:

<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=5208>

EQB Wind Site Permit

Trimont will also be applying to the Environmental Quality Board for a Wind Site Permit for the project. The EQB will administer the permit application under the wind rules, Minnesota Rules chapter 4401, at the same time it is preparing the Environmental Report for the PUC process. A draft site permit will be available a few weeks following the actual application. The EQB will use the same mailing list created for the certificate of need application to notify interested persons of matters regarding the permit.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION BY XCEL ENERGY FOR APPROVAL OF A MINOR ALTERATION TO A TRANSMISSION LINE IN KANDIYOHI COUNTY

Xcel Energy has applied to the Environmental Quality Board for approval to reroute a short portion of a 115 kilovolt transmission line near the Willmar substation in Kandiyohi County. Xcel intends to remove fourteen structures on the north side of the substation and reroute the line along an existing transmission line parallel to 45th Avenue S.W. in Willmar on the south side. This reroute of the line will eliminate fourteen structures along the existing alignment on the north side of the substation. There is other work going on at the Willmar substation, including the rebuild of a 115 kV line to Kerkhoven and the relocation of a 230 kV line to Paynesville.

Xcel maintains that the relocation of the line constitutes a minor alteration of an existing line. A minor alteration is a change in an existing transmission line that does not result in significant changes in the human or environmental impact of the facility. In accordance with EQB rules, part 4400.3820, the EQB Chair is providing notice to the public that Xcel has applied for approval of this project. The public has until

February 6, 2004, to submit comments on this project. After close of the comment period, the Chair will decide whether to grant the request for approval of a minor alteration, bring the matter to the Board for decision, or to require that a full permit be applied for.

To submit comments or to ask questions or to seek further information about this proposed project, please contact David Birkholz (651) 296-2878 or Alan Mitchell at (651) 296-3714, or email at david.birkholz@state.mn.us or alan.mitchell@state.mn.us

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF REVISIONS TO THE MN FOREST RESOURCES COUNCIL'S TIMBER HARVESTING AND FOREST MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The Minnesota Forest Resources Council (Council) is requesting public review and comment on the proposed revisions to the timber harvesting and forest management (TH/FM) guidelines. The TH/FM guidelines were published in April 1999 as part of the process to promote sustainable forest management in Minnesota through implementation of the Sustainable Forest Resources Act of 1995. The Act requires the Council to complete a review of the guidelines and approve any changes by June 30, 2005.

The Council has identified TH/FM guideline issue areas that are being considered for review. These include:

- Improvement of some guideline definitions.
- Clarification of the filter strip recommendations.
- Providing examples of silvicultural prescriptions and guideline application flexibility.
- Development of site infrastructure.
- Additional emphasis on minimizing soil compaction, considerations for soil operability, and minimizing site rutting.
- Modifications to erosion control practice recommendations for roads and skid trails.
- Modifications of seasonal pond recommendations.
- Clarification of the use of leave tree clumps for wildlife habitat.
- Desirability of linking site level guideline recommendations to the broader landscape/cumulative perspectives.
- Establishing a minimum size of open water wetland for requirement of a riparian management zone.

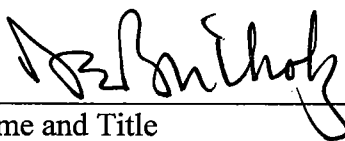
Members of the public wanting to review and provide comment on the proposed changes to the TH/FM guidelines

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING THE TRIMONT AREA WIND FARM, LLC NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF NEED AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING ON THE EQB WEBSITE

Under Minnesota Rules, part 4410.7030, Governing Environmental Review at the Certificate of Need Stage

I certify that on January 20, 2004, at least 15 days before the Public Meeting at Trimont Community Hall, Trimont Minnesota, I posted the Notice of Application and Notice of Public Meeting on the EQB Website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Bonichol", is written over a horizontal line.

Name and Title

TABLE 1-1
SUMMARY OF COMMENTS
(Received from January 13 and February 3, 2004 Meetings)

Number of comments on the issue	Method	Comments	Comment Addressed
1	Comment at Meeting	Satellite and TV interference.	- Permit Application - EQB Permit
1	Comment at Meeting	High-speed cable concern.	- EQB Permit - Microwave beam path study
1	Comment at Meeting	Turbine foundation dimension.	- Permit Application
7	Comment at Meeting	Who determines the locations of the access roads and underground wires?	- Permit Application - EQB Permit - Landowners during micro-siting
8	Comment at Meeting	Setback issues related to distance of turbines to homes, property lines and landowners involved and not in project.	- Permit Application - EQB Permit
2	Comment at Meeting	Do they spray (crop dusting) under the turbines?	- EQB Permit
1	Comment at Meeting	Is the wake from turbines a function of tower size?	- Data collected from met towers - Data collected from turbines once they are on-line.
2	Comment at Meeting	Will issues regarding lighting be identified? What will the effects of the wind farm be at night with lights?	- FAA Regional Decision
1	Comment at Meeting	Who will be responsible for closing gates so livestock don't get out?	- EQB Permit

Number of comments on the issue	Method	Comments	Comment Addressed
1	Comment at Meeting	Are there other projects that have turbines this large?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental Report - Yes, the PPM Moraine Project as well as another development on Buffalo Ridge.
1	Comment at Meeting	What is the difference in the Environmental Report and the Permit Application?	- Environmental Report
3	Comment at Meeting	What is the impact on wildlife, waterfowl and other uses?	- Permit Application
2	Comment at Meeting	<p>Will traffic increase on township roads?</p> <p>Road and enforcement issues.</p>	- Permit Application
1	Comment at Meeting	Is this the function of the EQB, to note these issues and make them part of the process?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permit Application - EQB Permit
1	Comment at Meeting	What is the value of electricity generated from 1.5 MW and how are prices set?	- GRE selected the price bid
1	Comment at Meeting	How many kW are produced by wind on an annual basis?	- Permit Application
1	Comment at Meeting	Will tax incentives be available?	- Production Tax Credit (PTC)
1	Comment at Meeting	Did you ever see a tornado go through a wind farm?	- The turbines shut down in high wind speeds.

Number of comments on the issue	Method	Comments	Comment Addressed
1	Comment at Meeting	Can the EQB override the County Zoning laws?	- Permit Application - EQB Permit - The EQB has pre-emption
2	Comment at Meeting	How will the value of building sites be affected? What are the economic impacts?	- Permit Application
1	Comment at Meeting	Are there any voltage effects on animals and children?	- The distribution lines will be at least 500- feet from homes.
2	Comment at Meeting	Is there a contact if drain tile is damaged?	- Permit Application
2	Comment at Meeting	How many years are the turbines useful? Who is responsible for decommissioning? Is there a schedule after the project is done that decommissioning needs to take place?	- Permit Application - EQB Permit
1	Comment via e-mail *Similar issues were raised at the 2/3/04 meeting.	Concerned that the project will have a negative impact on local ecology and economy. Would like to see a study of displaced land use and value.	- Permit Application - EQB Permit



STATE OF MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

**In the Matter of Trimont Wind I, LLC
Certificate of Need Application for a
Large Wind Energy Conversion System
In Jackson and Martin Counties**

**ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
SCOPING DECISION
PUC Docket #IP6339/CN-03-1841
March 1, 2004**

The matter came before the Chair of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) for a decision on the scope of the Environmental Report (ER) to be prepared on the proposed Large Wind Energy Conversion System. The EQB held a public meeting on February 3, 2004, to discuss the project with the public and to solicit input into the scope of the ER to be prepared. The public was given until February 24, 2004, to submit written comments regarding the scope of the ER. Having reviewed the comments submitted and consulted with EQB staff, I hereby make the following Scoping Order. The ER shall address the following issues:

PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

- A. No-build Alternative
- B. A Generic 100 MW Wind Project
- C. A 38.5 MW Biomass Plant
- D. The Trimont Area Wind Farm as Proposed

IMPACTS TO BE EVALUATED

- 1.0 General Project Description [Minn. Rules 4410.7035, subp. 1,A]
- 2.0 Human and Environmental Impacts [Minn. Rules 4410.7035, subp. 1,C]
 - 2.1 Emissions [Minn. Rules 4410.7035, subp. 2, A]
 - 2.1.1 No-build alternative
 - 2.1.2 100 MW wind project
 - 2.1.3 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - 2.1.4 Trimont Area Wind Farm

- 2.2 Hazardous air pollutants and VOCs [Minn. Rules 4410.7035, subp. 2, B]
 - 2.2.1 No-build alternative
 - 2.2.2 100 MW wind project
 - 2.2.3 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - 2.2.4 Trimont Area Wind Farm
- 2.3 Visibility impairment [Minn. Rules 4410.7035, subp. 2, C]
 - 2.3.1 No-build alternative
 - 2.3.2 100 MW wind project
 - 2.3.3 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - 2.3.4 Trimont Area Wind Farm
- 2.4 Ozone formation [Minn. Rules 4410.7035, subp. 2, D]
 - 2.4.1 No-build alternative
 - 2.4.2 100 MW wind project
 - 2.4.3 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - 2.4.4 Trimont Area Wind Farm
- 2.5 Fuel availability and delivery [Minn. Rules 4410.7035, subp. 2, E]
 - 2.5.1 No-build alternative
 - 2.5.2 100 MW wind project
 - 2.5.3 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - 2.5.4 Trimont Area Wind Farm
- 2.6 Associated transmission facilities [Minn. Rules 4410.7035, subp. 2, F]
 - 2.6.1 No-build alternative
 - 2.6.2 100 MW wind project
 - 2.6.3 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - 2.6.4 Trimont Area Wind Farm
- 2.7 Water appropriations [Minn. Rules 4410.7035, subp. 2, G]
 - 2.7.1 No-build alternative
 - 2.7.2 100 MW wind project
 - 2.7.3 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - 2.7.4 Trimont Area Wind Farm
- 2.8 Wastewater [Minn. Rules 4410.7035, subp. 2, H]
 - 2.8.1 No-build alternative
 - 2.8.2 100 MW wind project
 - 2.8.3 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - 2.8.4 Trimont Area Wind Farm
- 2.9 Solid and hazardous wastes [Minn. Rules 4410.7035, subp. 2, I]
 - 2.9.1 No-build alternative
 - 2.9.2 100 MW wind project
 - 2.9.3 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - 2.9.4 Trimont Area Wind Farm


- 2.10 Noise [Minn. Rules 4410.7035, subp. 2, J]
 - 2.10.1 No-build alternative
 - 2.10.2 100 MW wind project
 - 2.10.3 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - 2.10.4 Trimont Area Wind Farm
- 3.0 Mitigation measures [Minn. Rules 4410.7035, subp. 1, E]
 - 3.1 No-build alternative
 - 3.2 100 MW wind project
 - 3.3 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - 3.4 Trimont Area Wind Farm
- 4.0 Feasibility and availability of alternatives [Minn. Rules 4410.7035, subp. 1, F]
 - 4.1 No-build alternative
 - 4.2 100 MW wind project
 - 4.3 38.5 MW biomass plant
 - 4.4 Trimont Area Wind Farm
- 5.0 Required permits [Minn. Rules 4410.7035, subp. 1, G]
- 6.0 Other matters identified by Chair [Minn. Rules 4410.7035, subp. 1, H]
 - 6.1 Displaced land use and value, including residential values and the comparative viability of conservation buyouts in a wind project area
 - 6.2 Protecting future development opportunity in non-participating sections

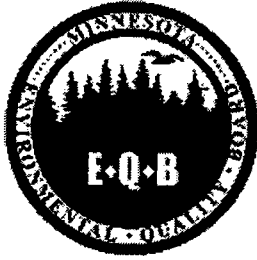
SCHEDULE

The Environmental Review will be completed by April 5, 2004.

Signed this 8 day of March, 2004

STATE OF MINNESOTA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD


Robert A. Schroeder, Chair



**STATE OF MINNESOTA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD**

**In the Matter of Trimont Wind I, LLC
Certificate of Need Application for a
Large Wind Energy Conversion System
In Jackson and Martin Counties**

**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE
Environmental Report
Scoping Decision
PUC Docket #IP6339/CN-03-1841**

I depose and state that, on the date listed, I served true and correct copies of the following document:

“MEQB Chair’s Scoping Decision on the Environmental Report”

on each of the persons on the Trimont Wind Project Interest List, Scoping Decision Public Meeting Attendees, and local County and Township officials by placing the item in an envelope addressed to each and mailing it with the U.S. Postal Service with postage pre-paid or State of Minnesota Interoffice mail.

Andrea Dick

Name

March 8, 2004

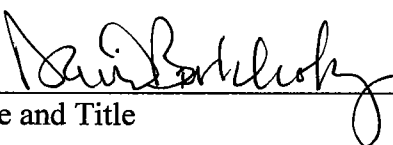
Date

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

**CERTIFICATE OF POSTING NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT FOR THE TRIMONT WIND I, LLC, APPLICATION
FOR CERTIFICATE OF NEED, PUC DOCKET #IP6339/CN-03-1841 IN THE EQB
MONITOR**

**Under Minnesota Rules, part 4410.7030, subp. 10, Governing Environmental Review at
the Certificate of Need Stage**

I certify that on March 29, 2004, I posted the notice of the availability of the
Environmental Report in the EQB Monitor. [A copy of the Notice is attached to this Certificate.]



Name and Title

acre study area is between 410th Street, I-35, CSAH 30, Aztec Trail. The AUAR evaluates existing conditions and three development scenarios. The development scenarios analyzed include varying ranges of industrial, commercial, and residential development within the study area.

RGU: City of North Branch

Contact: Al Cottingham, City Planner, 6408 Elm Street, North Branch, Minnesota 55056; 651-674-8113 Fax: 651-674-8262 Email: alanc@ci.north-branch.mn.us.

SDEIS SCOPING DECISION NOTICE

St. Croix River Crossing Project

An Amended Final Scoping Decision Document (AFSDD) has been prepared as part of the federal NEPA and state environmental review processes for a new river crossing of the St. Croix River in the area of Stillwater, Minnesota, and Houlton, Wisconsin. The potential limits of the project extend from the TH 36/TH 5 interchange in Stillwater and Oak Park Heights in Minnesota, to approximately 150th Avenue on STH 35/64 southwest of Somerset, in Wisconsin.

This decision follows circulation of an Amended Scoping Document and Amended Draft Scoping Decision Document (ASD/ADSDD) in November 2003. Scoping meetings were held on December 2, 2003, at the Houlton Elementary School, Houlton, Wisconsin, and on December 3, 2003, at the Washington County Government Center, Stillwater. The same information was presented at both meetings. The 30-day comment period expired December 10, 2003.

Based on the Scoping Decision, Mn/DOT, WisDOT, and FHWA will prepare a Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) to evaluate potential impacts of the proposed project and to serve as a decision-making tool. The SDEIS will evaluate alternatives B-1, C, D, E, and the No Build Alternative. Public informational meetings are anticipated for July 2004. Publication of the SDEIS is anticipated for August 2004, with the SDEIS public hearings anticipated for September, 2004.

Mn/DOT, WisDOT and FHWA prepared the AFSDD to document the Scoping Decision, describe the alternatives to be studied in the SDEIS and describe the social, economic, and environmental issues to be studied in the SDEIS. The AFSDD will be provided to the agencies on the Environmental Quality Board Distribution List.

The AFSDD can be viewed at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/stcroix/index.html>. Copies of the AFSDD will be available for review at the Bayport Public Library (Bayport), the Carleton A. Friday

Memorial Library (New Richmond), the Hudson Area Joint Library (Hudson), St. Joseph Town Hall (St. Joseph), the Somerset Public Library (Somerset), the Stillwater Public Library (Stillwater), the Washington County Government Center Library (Stillwater), Mn/DOT Library (395 John Ireland Boulevard, St. Paul), and the Environmental Conservation Library (Minneapolis). The document will also be available at the Wis/DOT Planning Library (Madison), Mn/DOT's offices at 1500 West County Road B2, Roseville, Minnesota and Wis/DOT's offices at 718 West Clairemont Avenue, Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The document will be available by request on CD-ROM from the Mn/DOT and Wis/DOT contacts listed below.

Further information regarding this proposed project may be obtained from the following contact persons:

- Todd Clarkowski, Mn/DOT 651-582-1169
- Terry Pederson, Wis/DOT 715-836-2857, (800) 991-5285
- Cheryl Martin, FHWA 651-291-6100

NOTICES

EQB MONITOR NOTICE -- Trimont Wind Project Environmental Report Available

Re: The Matter of the Application for a Certificate of Need for the Trimont Area Wind Farm; PUC Docket #IP-6339/CN-03-1841

According to Minnesota Rules, part 4410.7020, the Environmental Quality Board is responsible for preparing an Environmental Report for the Public Utilities Commission on proposed projects as part of the Certificate of Need review.

Trimont Wind I, LLC, has applied to the PUC for a CON for a 100.5 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Martin and Jackson counties. EQB has duly prepared the Environmental Report for the project. That report is now available on the EQB website at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us> or by calling David Birkholz at (651) 296-2878 and requesting a copy.

Notice of Prehearing Conference in the Matter of the Application of Northern States Power Company for a Certificate of Need for a Large Electric Generating Facility

Public Utilities Commission Docket No. E-002/CN-04-76

On January 16, 2004, Northern States Power Company (d/b/a Xcel Energy) submitted a certificate of need application. The proposed "project" would include:

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT FOR THE TRIMONT WIND I, LLC, APPLICATION
FOR CERTIFICATE OF NEED, PUC DOCKET #IP6339/CN-03-1841 TO THE
PROJECT INTEREST MAILING LIST**

**Under Minnesota Rules, part 4410.7030, subp. 10, Governing Environmental Review at
the Certificate of Need Stage**

I certify that on March 26, 2004, I mailed the notice of the availability of the
Environmental Report by depositing a copy thereof in the State of Minnesota's central mail
system for United States mail, with postage prepaid, to all persons and associations on the
Trimont interest list. [A copy of the Notice is attached to this Certificate.]

Anaana J. Dierk, Admin Asst.
Name and Title



March 26, 2004

To: Trimont Project Mailing List

From: David Birkholz, Energy Facility Permitting

Re: **Trimont Wind I, LLC**
CON Application for a LWECS
PUC Docket #IP6339/CN-03-1841
Environment Report Available

According to Minnesota Rules, part 4410.7020, the Environmental Quality Board is responsible for preparing an Environmental Report for the Public Utilities Commission on proposed projects as part of the Certificate of Need review.

Trimont Wind I, LLC, has applied to the PUC for a CON for a 100.5 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Martin and Jackson counties. EQB has duly prepared the Environmental Report for the project. That report is now available on the EQB website at <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=5208> or by calling David Birkholz at (651) 296-2878 and requesting a copy.

658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Telephone:
651-296-3985

Facsimile:
651-296-3698

TTY:
800-627-3529

www.eqb.state.mn.us

Adam Sokolski
Izaak Walton League
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Becky McCann
Jackson County Courthouse, 413 4th St
Jackson, MN 56143

Betty Carlson
2119 30th Avenue,
Trimont, MN 56176

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Maxi International
2509 Canada Blvd,
Glendale, CA 91208

Brian Hansen
80 3rd Avenue SE,
Trimont, MN 56176

Brian Lammer
Navitas Energy
3001 Broadway St. NE,
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Carolyn Cook-Coyle
220 11th Avenue SE,
Rochester, MN 55904

Chair Dennis Sjogren
2053 50th Ave,
Trimont, MN 56176

Commissioner Catherine Hohenstein
Jackson County Courthouse, 413 4th St
Jackson, MN 56143

Commissioner Craig Rubis
Jackson County Courthouse, 413 4th St
Jackson, MN 56143

Commissioner Jerry Boler
Martin County Courthouse, PO Box 955
Fairmont, MN 56075

Commissioner Loren Tusa
Jackson County Courthouse, 413 4th St
Jackson, MN 56143

Commissioner Robert Ferguson
Jackson County Courthouse, 413 4th St
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Commissioner Roger Ringkob
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Dale Zeigler
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Odin, MN 56160

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Eldon Olson
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Elizabeth Goodpaster
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St. Paul, MN 55101

Eric C. Thompson
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Windom, MN 56101

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Gene Geesman
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Gregg Patison
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Windom, MN 56101

Hwikwon Ham
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Minneapolis, MN 55414

Hwikwon Ham
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ST PAUL, MN 55101

Jack Keers
Pipestone County
704 4th street S.E.,
Pipestone, MN 56164

Jack Potter
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Trimont, MN 56176

Jason Kaufman
Wanzek Construction, Inc.
PO Box 2019, Exit 342 on I-94
Fargo, ND 58107

Jeff Cook-Coyle
Winergie Wind Energy Development
Corporation
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Rochester, MN 55904

Jeff Bottin
545 250th Street,
Odin, MN 56160

Jerry Ploehn
85703 600th Ave,
Alpha, MN 56111

Jim Hallstrom
2201 Lake Avenue, Room 326
Fairmont, MN 56075

Jim & Diane Swanson
91868 570th Avenue,
Mountain Lake, MN 56159

John Drawz
4000 Pillsbury Cetner, 200 South Sixth St.
Minneapolis, MN 55402

John Jaffray
Prairie Gen Corp.
514 No. Third St., Suite 204
Minneapolis, MN 55401

John Drauz
200 South Sixth Street #4000,
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Judy Sinn
2311 40th Avenue,
Trimont, MN 56176

Karl Mertins
3336 E. Kimberly Rd,
Davenport, IA 52807

Karla Benson
2153 10th Avenue,
Odin, MN 56160

Kay Wrucke
Martin County
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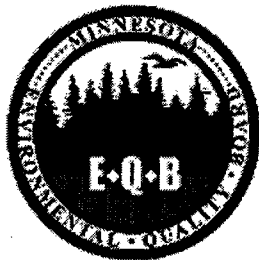
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**STATE OF MINNESOTA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD**

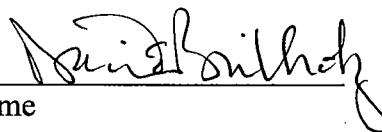
**In the Matter of Trimont Wind I, LLC
Certificate of Need Application for a
Large Wind Energy Conversion System
In Jackson and Martin Counties**

**AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE
Environmental Report
PUC Docket #IP6339/CN-03-1841
OAH Docket #6-2500-15659-2**

I depose and state that, on the date listed, I served true and correct copies of the following document:

“Environmental Report: Trimont Wind Project”

on David Jacobson of the Public Utilities Commission and each of the persons on the attached Service List, by placing the item in an envelope addressed to each and mailing it with the U.S. Postal Service with postage pre-paid or State of Minnesota Interoffice mail.


Name

March 29, 2004
Date



**STATE OF MINNESOTA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD**

**In the Matter of Trimont Wind I, LLC
Certificate of Need Application for a
Large Wind Energy Conversion System
In Jackson and Martin Counties**

**SERVICE LIST (as of 3/29/04)
PUC Docket #IP6339/CN-03-1841
OAH Docket #6-2500-15659-2**

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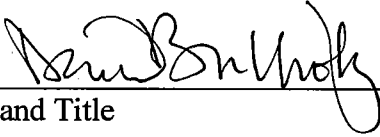
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Minnesota Environmental Quality Board

**CERTIFICATE OF POSTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT FOR THE
TRIMONT WIND I, LLC, APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF NEED, PUC
DOCKET #IP6339/CN-03-1841 ON THE EQB WEBSITE**

**Under Minnesota Rules, part 4410.7030, subp. 10, Governing Environmental Review at
the Certificate of Need Stage**

I certify that on March 29, 2004, I posted the Environmental Report on the EQB Website.



Name and Title